

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN BILL TASH**, on February 24, 2003 at
3:40 P.M., in Room 303 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Bill Tash, Chairman (R)
Sen. Aubyn Curtiss, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Sherm Anderson (R)
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)
Sen. Jon Ellingson (D)
Sen. Rick Laible (R)
Sen. Bea McCarthy (D)
Sen. Dan McGee (R)
Sen. Gary L. Perry (R)
Sen. Glenn Roush (D)
Sen. Debbie Shea (D)
Sen. Ken Toole (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Shirley Herrin, Committee Secretary
Krista Lee Evans, Legislative Branch

Video-taped Committee: These minutes are in outline form only.
They provide a list of participants and a record of official
action taken by the committee. A video-taped recording of the
meeting is available from the Montana Historical Society.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 456, 2/21/2003; SB 409,
2/21/2003; SB436, 2/21/2003; SB
437, 2/21/2003
Executive Action: None

HEARING ON SB 456

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

3:40 **SEN. JOHN ESP, SD 13, Big Timber** "Revise laws related to Hard-Rock Mining Impact Board". He submitted copies of MRC 2-5-102

Proponents' Testimony:

3:45 Page Dringman, BTGS, Attorney, Big Timber

3:51 Doug Lehr, BTGS

Opponents' Testimony:

3:54 Harold Blattie, MACo, Hard Rock Counties

Informational Witnesses:

3:57 Carol Ferguson, Hard Rock M. Impact Board

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

3:59 **SEN. ESP.** closed on SB 456.

HEARING ON SB 409

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

4:00 **SEN. COREY STAPLETON, SD 10, Billings** "Development plan for otter creek tracts".

Proponents' Testimony:

4:04 Bud Clinch, Director, DNRC,

4:05 Leo Berry, Great Northern Properties,

4:08 Tom Beck, Chief Policy Advisor, Governor Martz

4:10 Jim Mockler, MT Coal Council

4:11 **SEN. KEITH BALES, SD 1, Otter**

4:14 Don Allen, Western Environmental Trade Assoc.

4:15 Russ Ritter, MT's for Responsible Energy Development

4:18 Tom Figarelle, Forward Montana

4:20 Cary Hegreberg MT Contractors Assoc.

4:22 Vicki Steiner, Exec. Dir., MT Oil, Gas & Coal Counties

4:22 **REP. RON DEVLIN, HD 3, Terry**

4:23 Webb Brown, MT Chamber of Commerce

4:24 Charles Brooks, Billings Chamber of Commerce

4:25 **REP. GARY FORRESTER, HD 16, Billings**

Opponents' Testimony:

4:25 **REP. NORMA BIXBY, HD 5**, read letter from Geri Small

Informational Witnesses:

4:28 Jeff Barber, MT Environmental Information Center

4:30 Wayne Van Voast, MT Bureau of Mines & Geology

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

4:34 Begin

4:42 Ended

8 min Time elapsed

Closing by Sponsor:

4:42 **SEN. STAPLETON** closed on SB 409.

HEARING ON SB 436

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

4:43 **SEN. DEBBIE SHEA, SD 18, Butte** "Modify prohibition on silver or gold mining using cyanide-based ore processing".

Proponents' Testimony:

4:49 Jerry Driscoll, MT AFL/CIO

4:50 Evan Barrett, Butte Local Development _____

4:53 Angela Janacaro, Ex. Dir., MT Mining Assoc.

4:59 Webb Brown, MT Chamber of Commerce

5:00 Raymond E. Krauss, Coalition of Mining Companies

5:07 Russ Ritter, MT for Responsible Energy Development

5:09 Stuart A. Sanderson, Pres/CEO, Colorado Mining Assoc.

5:12 Haley Beaudry, Mining Engineer, Butte

5:14 Bob Pavlovich, IBEW 233

5:15 J.D. Lynch, MT State Building Trades

5:16 Don Allen, WETA

5:16 **SEN. DAN MC GEE, SD 11, Billings**

5:19 Harold Blattie, MACo

Opponents' Testimony:

5:20 **SEN. MIKE COONEY, SD 26, Helena**

5:23 REP. JONATHAN WINDY BOY, HD 92, Box Elder

5:29 Paul Roos, Blackfoot Rancher & Businessman

5:32 Stephanie Ambrose Tubbs, Blackfoot resident

5:35 James D. Jensen, MT's for Common Sense Mining Laws

5:38 Susan Reed, Self,

5:41 Matt Clifford, Clark Fork Coalition

5:45 Ric Valois, Environmental Rangers, Great Falls

5:47 Kirk Evenson, Chair, MT Trout Unlimited

5:49 Mark Gerlach, Self

Chris Strainer, Missouri River Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Monte Cooper, Self,
Jon Krutar, Self
Stan Frasier, Self
Harry Poett, Self, Trout Unlimited
Stu Levit, Self
Janet Mc Millan, Northern Plains
Becky Garland, Self
Mary Ann Guggenheim, Self
Stephen Bryant, Self, BBC Trout Unlimited
Jay Erickson, Trout Unlimited Board Member
Robin Cunningham, Fishing Outfitters Assoc. of Montana
Garrett Munson, Self
Pat Straub, Self
Jeff Barber, MEIC,
Lynn Fairbanks, Sierra Club
Gene Fenderson, MT Progressive Labor Caucus
Larry Kralj, Environmental Rangers
Candace Durran, Self
Mat Loew, MT PRIG
Brenda Lindlief-Hall, Tongue River Water Users
Don Judge, MT Sierra Club,
Tracy Stone-Manning, Self

Informational Witnesses: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

5:56 Begin
6:07 **SEN. JON ELLINGSON** questioned Warren McCulloch
6:35 Ended
39 min Time elapsed

Closing by Sponsor:

6:35 **SEN. SHEA** closed on SB 436.

HEARING ON SB 437

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

6:40 **SEN. KEITH BALES, SD 1, Otter** "Revise laws to
 facilitate coal bed natural gas". **SEN. BALES** announced

he wished to withdraw SB 437 for consideration by the committee.

CHAIRMAN TASH announced he would hold Executive Action at 10:00am on February 25, 2003.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 6:43 P.M.

SEN. BILL TASH, Chairman

SHIRLEY HERRIN, Secretary

BT/SH